



May 13, 2020

The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1347 – SUPPORT
As Amended May 6, 2020**

Dear Senator Galgiani:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Senate Bill 1347, which would allow animals in animal shelters to receive prompt basic first aid and preventive care without the presence of a veterinarian. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

As you know, current law makes it unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine unless the person holds a valid license issued by the California Veterinary Medical Board. However, existing law provides exemptions to the licensure requirements for specified acts of veterinary care, including administering medication for the euthanasia of sick, injured, homeless, or unwanted animals, without the presence of a veterinarian, when the person is an animal shelter employee that has received proper training.

SB 1347 would expand the types of veterinary care services that may be provided by properly trained employees at an animal shelter without the presence of a veterinarian, to include preventative or prophylactic vaccinations, administration of nonprescription medication and basic first aid. This bill also allows shelter officers, employees and volunteers to perform wound care and administer medication without the presence of a veterinarian, when in accordance with a written treatment plan provided to the shelter by a licensed veterinarian.

Animal shelters in rural communities often do not have full-time veterinarians, and some are located many miles away from a veterinary facility. According to the Department of Consumer Affairs 2019 licensing data, nine counties have less than 10 licensed veterinarians to serve the entire county. In addition, rural shelters operate with

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modest resources and budgets, and often times face difficulty when updating their facility to meet the robust premise permit requirements and/or find a veterinarian willing to take responsibility for the shelter facility and the activities of its staff. SB 1347 is narrowly crafted and allows properly trained individuals in a shelter setting to provide immediate and necessary treatment of animals within their respective care. This bill does not allow unlicensed persons to practice veterinary medicine, but rightly allows the same basic animal care in a shelter that is permitted by an owner to their own pet. RCRC supports SB 1347 as it would allow rural animal shelters and its agencies or humane societies to properly treat animals in their care, prevent communicable disease transmission and will ultimately save the lives of adoptable pets.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your SB 1347. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



TRACY RHINE
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Phillip Chen, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development
Committee
Consultant, Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee
Kayla Williams, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus